

Appl. No. 09/773,245
Amdt. Dated March 17, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 21, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P11147-US1
EUS/J/P/05-3072

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claims 26-41 have been canceled and claims 42-77 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 42-77 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 26, 27, 29 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement as the claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification.

Claims 24-29 and 37-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. Claims 24-29 and 37-41 have been cancelled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29-31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barany (US 6,434,140) in view of Mallory (US 6,335,933). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 26-41 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 24, 26, 27, 29-31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39 and 41 is deemed to be moot.

Claims 25, 32 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barany in view of Mallory and further in view of Kaiyama (US 5,616,210). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 25, 32 and 38 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

Claims 28 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barany in view of Mallory and further in view of Rasanen (US 6,647,006). In order

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to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 28 and 35 without prejudice.

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barany in view of Mallory and further in view of Rasanen (US 6,647,741 hereinafter Rasanen '741). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claim 40 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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